

Barbara Flynn
Curriculum Vitae

Born Buffalo, New York,
Dual citizen, USA and
Australia, resident Sydney

1 Implementation of art in building projects and the public domain

Advisor to the City of Sydney and other city councils, New South Wales and Queensland Governments, foundations, educational institutions and property development companies to implement singular works of art in public infrastructure and private development projects in the Australian capital cities and regional areas. Providing curatorial services, including artist identification and selection, site analysis, strategic planning and negotiations with approval authorities, project management and communications. Realised projects: <https://we.tl/t-6u573GESTH>

Selected corporate public art clients and projects

Macquarie Group, Sydney Metro Martin Place, Integrated Station Development

Sound and light work for Muru Giligu pedestrian tunnel; Grimshaw (2026). Artist: Jazz Money (Wiradjuri).

Hunter & Pitt Streets development

Art Advisor, art for tower adjacent to new Sydney Metro Hunter Street station, a State Significant Development; Bates Smart (2023–27). Artist: Alick Tipoti (Maluyilgal of Zenadh Kes (Torres Strait)).

499–501 Kent Street, Sydney

Art Advisor to Icon Oceania, art for tower façade; SJB (2023–26). Artist: Marrnyula Mununggurr (Yolngu).

World Square, Sydney

Art Advisor to ISPT for the redesign of the central plaza of World Square; Hassell (2020–26). Artist: Spencer Finch.

Holdmark Property Group

Art Advisor for Burwood Place; Studio SC (2024–26). Artist: Agatha Gothe-Snape.

Investa, Oxford Properties Group, Mitsubishi Estate Asia

Art Advisor for Parkline Place, tower above new Gadigal Station, a State Significant Development; Foster + Partners (2019–25). Artist: Tomás Saraceno. Art Advisor, Investa, Ark, 40 Mount Street, North Sydney; Rice Daubney (2006–10). Artists: Hany Armanious, Freddie Timms (Gija, 1946–2017).

AMP Capital

Art Advisor, Quay Quarter Sydney, a State Significant Development; 3XN; SJB; Studio Bright; Silvester Fuller (2015–22). Artists: Olafur Eliasson, Jonathan Jones (Kamilaroi/Wiradjuri).

Greenland (Australia) Investment Pty Ltd

Art Advisor, Greenland Centre; BVN (2017–21). Artist: Agatha Gothe-Snape. Art Advisor, Ashmore Estate, Marrickville; WMK Architecture (2017–18).

Frasers Property Australia Pty Ltd

Art Advisor, Central Park; Foster + Partners; Atelier Jean Nouvel; JPW; Smart Design Studio (2013–20). Artists: Turpin+Crawford Studio, Tadashi Kawamata, Pipilotti Rist, Ugo Rondinone, Yhonnie Scarce (Kokatha/Nukunu), Justine Varga.

Lendlease and Barangaroo Delivery Authority

Art Advisor to finalist team (Oculus) for Harbour Park, Central Barangaroo, 2023. Artists: Joel Davison, Jazz Money, Yhonnie Scarce. Curatorial Advisor, for Major Project and Through-site link, Barangaroo South; RSH+P (2014–16). Artists: Brenda L Croft (Gurindji/Malngin/Mudpurra), Sabine Hornig, Tomás Saraceno.

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Mirvac

Art Advisor, 8 Chifley Square; RSH+P and Lippmann Partnership (2009–14).
Artist: Jenny Holzer.

Grocon

Art Advisor, 161 Castlereagh Street; FJMT (2010–13). Artist: Cerith Wyn Evans.

**Dexus Property Group, Dexus Wholesale Property Fund and
Cbus Property**

Art Advisor, 1 Bligh Street, Sydney; Architectus; Ingenhoven und Partner
(2008–11). Artist: James Angus.

Municipalities, state planning authorities, universities, foundations

**Western Sydney Airport Metro and Western Sydney Airport
Masterplan**

Art Advisor for winning submission for Airport Terminal Station commission;
Hassell (2022–28). Artist: William Brian ‘Badger’ Bates (Barkandji). Art Advisor
for reference scheme; Zaha Hadid Architects; Cox Architecture (2019–21).

Adelaide City Council

Public art advisor to the city to guide the redirection of its vision for art in the
city (2023–25).

Cross River Rail and Rail, Integration and Systems, Brisbane (CRR)

Art Advisor to architects Hassell and CRR for four central city stations, Brisbane
(2020–22; resuming the work 2023–25). Australian first in commissioning
100 per cent Queensland-born/based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.

Paul Ramsay Foundation Sydney Headquarters

Art Advisor for new Sydney headquarters; SJB (2020–22). Artist: Badger Bates.

**Property and Development NSW (PDNSW), NSW Department of
Planning, Industry and Environment**

As part of a team of landscape architects, reported on opportunities for greening
the interstitial spaces east of Macquarie Street (2022).

City of Sydney

Curatorial Advisor, City Centre (2013–20, re-engaged 2023–24) for projects
with Junya Ishigami, Tracey Emin, Hany Armanious, Callum Morton and Lara
Schnitger. Identified artists and ran competition for the Sydney city centre
(2014) that broke all records for a City of Sydney process, with 700 submissions
by artists representing 25 countries. Contributed expertise on fabrication
methods and lighting and final inspection of artworks. Authored City Centre
Public Art Plan (2013), unanimously accepted by City of Sydney councillors.

Parramatta Park Trust

Author of report on proposal of the Trust to erect bridges across the Parramatta
River, linking the Park with the diverse neighbourhoods of the larger city (2019).

**Sydney Airport and Museum of Contemporary Art Australia/
Sydney Airports Corporation Limited**

Art Advisor for major new work for T1 Marketplace, International Terminal
(2017–18). Artist: Archie Moore (Kamilaroi/Bigambul); an example of early
identification and support of an artist who in 2024 was awarded the Golden
Lion for the artwork *kith and kin*, 60th Biennale di Venezia. Curator, Sydney
International Terminal refurbishment in preparation for Sydney Olympics; Clare
Design (2000). Artists: Susan Norrie, Michael Riley (Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi).

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City of Wollongong

Art Advisor to City Council for Crown Street Mall (2014–18). Artist: Mike Hewson; example of an artist, 29 when selected for Wollongong, who has gone on to be recognised with commissions for other seminal projects, with the City of Melbourne at Southbank (2022) and The Tank, Art Gallery of New South Wales (2025).

Cities of Paris, Stuttgart and Bonn

Persuaded Paris city public domain officials to approve first contemporary sculpture ever to be sited on 16th-century Place Dauphine, Paris (1993). Artist: David Rabinowitch (1943–2023). Interpreter in German for artist Mark di Suvero, installations in Stuttgart and Bonn (1988).

Simryn Gill

Partnered with Singapore-born, Sydney-based artist Simryn Gill to raise her international profile (2003–06), culminating in Gill representing Australia at the 55th Biennale di Venezia (2013).

2 Corporate art collections and auction experience

ABN AMRO, Austcorp Group Limited, Credit Suisse, Deloitte, Herbert Smith Freehills, Lawson-Menzies Flynn, Slattery, Sotheby's Australia, UBS Investment Bank (Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney), UBS Wealth Management (Brisbane), The UBS Art Collection (Zurich)

- Working with artist Thea Anamara Perkins (Arrernte/Kalkadoon), formed art collection for new Slattery Sydney headquarters with works by Perkins, Archie Moore and artists from Mparntwe and Maningrida (2019–20).
- Re-engaged for assignments following completion of core collections: assisted ABN AMRO to establish Emerging Artist Award (2004); courier, The UBS Art Collection tour, Sydney/Melbourne/Tokyo (2007).
- Conceived and curated award-winning *New Australian Art* exhibition series (2005–13) for Deloitte; in line with Deloitte initiatives in support of diversity and innovation, exhibitions featured more than 200 women, Asian-born, Aboriginal, emerging, mid-career and senior artists.
- Managed disposition of art collection of Austcorp Group Limited in voluntary administration, overseeing sales effort by Sotheby's, achieving 96% clearance rate in lacklustre market at onset of GFC (2009).
- Conceived and organised Lawson-Menzies Flynn auction of International Emerging and Contemporary Art as a means of introducing international art to the Australian market, leveraging contacts to secure 92 works from 17 nations, by artists never before seen in Australia, at reserves below market value (2002).

3 New York gallery experience

Gagosian Gallery, New York (1994–98)

- Secured representation of artist Douglas Gordon and Estate of David Smith, curating first gallery exhibition of the estate; managed relationships with Walter De Maria, Cy Twombly, Philip Taaffe, David Salle.

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- Developed the vision for new markets for the gallery in Mexico and Seattle, securing clients from Microsoft/emerging tech sector; established Sydney office to develop new markets in Australia and Southeast Asia.

Owner of galleries, Art Galaxy and Flynn, for emerging art in New York (1980–94)

- Expedient, sole-proprietor operations, the galleries provided important early exposure for artists who went on to become well known, such as Nancy Spero and Thomas Struth.
- Art Galaxy was a not-for-profit gallery, part of the first wave of exhibition spaces founded by small independent operators in New York in the 1980s.
- Flynn was a selling gallery that focused on ambitious projects and museum-calibre shows of the art of Alfred Leslie (1927–2023), David Rabinowitch (1943–2023) and Myron Stout (1908–1987), documented through publications, organised in collaboration with legendary gallerist Richard Bellamy (1927–1998).

4 Museum experience

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum and Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld, Germany (1976–77)

Research assistant. Wrote catalogue in German of works from seminal exhibition *When Attitudes Become Form* (Harald Szeemann, 1969), on loan to museum from the Collection of Helga and Walther Lauffs. Work formed the basis of 2009 two-volume publication of the collection by Steidl/Zwirner and Hauser & Wirth.

Städtische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf, Germany (1975–76)

Curatorial intern, auspices a Yale John Courtney Murray Fellowship. First museum show of student artists Kunstakademie Düsseldorf; developed grounding in European art unique among American curators of my generation.

Education

1977–81

Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York

PhD program, studies of Modern Art and Greek Art of the Bronze Age

1971–75

Yale University

Bachelor of Arts, History of Art. Graduation cum laude and with Distinction in the major of History of Art. Awards: Yale University John Courtney Murray Fellowship and Yale University A. Conger Goodyear Award (1975); Yale University Marshall-Allison Travel Grant (1974); Helena Rubinstein Fellow, Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program (1973)

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Awards

Australian Institute of Architects NSW Chapter, The City of Sydney Lord Mayor's Prize and Urban Design Award, awarded to Quay Quarter Lanes 2022

Property Council of Australia Innovation & Excellence Awards, Award for Best Public Art Project 2023: Olafur Eliasson, *Roof for stray thoughts*, Quay Quarter Tower; Jonathan Jones, *Remembering Arabanoo*, Quay Quarter Lanes Sydney

Place Leaders Asia Pacific, 2021 Place Process Award, awarded to Barbara Flynn Pty Ltd for Central Park

Public lectures, interviews, panels and tours

'Urban precincts, heritage and placemaking', panel, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) 21st General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, Sydney, 3 September 2023

Walk of eight public art projects delivered initially for 'Urban explorers: New public art', Sydney Living Museums Architecture & Design Series, July–August 2022

'Sydney public art', presenter, Monash University Museum of Art (MUMA), *Let's Go Outside: Making Art Public*, Melbourne, 30–31 August 2019

'Sydney public art', presentation, 17 August 2015 and presentation, Shortlisted Competitor Briefing Session, 5 February 2015, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Flynn talking to camera (31 May 2018) and artist Tadashi Kawamata site visit for Central Park commission, 19 May 2016; also featured: Christine Bootes, Mick Caddey, Ineke Dane; filming by Yanni Kronenberg

'Sabine Hornig Shadows: Interview with Curator Barbara Flynn', 19 June 2017, Vimeo

Tracey Emin in Conversation with Barbara Flynn, Curatorial Advisor, City Centre, City of Sydney, 8 August 2017

'The Mix: Pub Chat', with Marcus Westbury and James Valentine, ABC Radio, 4 August 2014

'Tales of the city – Barbara Flynn', video, City of Sydney, YouTube, 2013

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Writings by and about Barbara Flynn and projects

Julie Power, 'Top spots for Sydney's public art in architecture', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 January 2023

True Nourishment by Kylie Kwong: A Project for NIRIN, 22nd Biennale of Sydney, 2020

Nathan Dunne, '"It's what makes the city your city": Sydney's battle for public art', *The Guardian*, 15 December 2018

Gillian Serisier, 'Barbara Flynn: Art adviser', *Australian Design Review*, 13 June 2017

Jeff Kennett, 'If cultural heart beats faster it'll catch my city', *The Weekend Australian*, 2–3 August 2014

Fiona Smith, 'Writing on the wall: Jenny Holzer's Sydney installation shines a light on Indigenous stories', *Australian Financial Review*, 17–18 May 2014

Michael Fitzgerald, 'Sydney's public spaces transforming into living galleries', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 August 2013

Andrew Taylor, 'A car-free yellow brick road? We're not on George Street any more', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 July 2013

Michaela Boland, 'Business makes a show of its art', *The Australian*, 17 March 2010

'The fine art of giving', *Australian Financial Review Magazine*, June 2008

Emerge and Review: A Look into the UBS Australian Art Collection, Sydney, 2007

Nick Watt, 'Art adviser Barbara Flynn', *Australian Art Collector*, 2007

Brad Hatch, 'The company curator', *Australian Financial Review*, 10 November 2006

David Meagher, 'How to be "in" like Flynn', *Australian Financial Review Magazine*, 31 May 2002

Lawson-Menzies Flynn, *International Contemporary and Emerging Art*, 2002

'Introduction', in *Painted Steel: The Late Work of David Smith*, Gagosian Gallery, New York, 1998

Brooks Adams and Lisa Liebmann, 'Barbara Flynn's idea of a commercial art gallery is unutterably high-minded', *New Yorker*, Goings On About Town, 12 February 1990

Douglas C. McGill, 'Success stories of two galleries in emerging art neighborhoods', *New York Times*, 18 February 1985

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Referees

Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer, City of Sydney

Michael Brand, Director emeritus, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Caroline Diesner, former Principal and Board Director, Hassell

Scott Duncan, Design Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrell, and Co-Chair, SOM Foundation, Chicago, IL

Simon Healy, General Manager, Commercial Development, Mirvac

Jennifer Kalionis, Associate Director, City Culture, City of Adelaide

Kate D. Levin, Lead, Bloomberg Philanthropies Arts; Principal, Cultural Assets Management, Bloomberg Associates – Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bridget Smyth, Design Director, City of Sydney

Annie Tennant, Director, Design and Place, NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment; formerly Manager, Sustainability and Culture, Barangaroo South, Lendlease

Lucy Turnbull AO, former Chief Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission

Michael Wheatley, Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation, formerly Development Director, AMP Capital